

26. Valley Oaks Savannah : A, B, C, D, E			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	Los Angeles County considers its oaks as indicators of the presence of important biological communities for preservation, and the uncommon valley oaks of the western areas of the County are especially valued.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Los Angeles County has the southern boundary of occurrence for the valley oak, which has its core population in the state's Central Valley. This makes the valley oak areas important for the region of southern California—they are very uncommon for the region as a whole.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The valley oak is uncommon in the County, and the western areas with this species are scattered.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	Oaks are the basic structure for complex communities of organisms. They form shelter and provide many ecosystem functions that facilitate breeding, feeding, resting, and migration. As the basis of the community, it is important to conserve this habitat.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	Yes	The valley oaks of Los Angeles County are on the southern edge of the species' range. This makes them important as the extreme in physical and geographical limits for the scientific study of the species.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	No	